

Sunday Study

LESSON HINTS

DAVID AND GOLIATH.

The International Sunday school lesson for August 9 is found in I. Samuel, xvii., 38-49. The golden text is Romans, viii., 8.

After his anointing there was no change in David's life. He tended his father's sheep as he had done before. It is quite possible that he himself did not even know the purpose of his anointing. That he should ever rule Israel did not seem at all probable. The way upward was opened when David went upon an errand to the army. The challenge of the Philistine giant was his summons to a higher career. God made use of David's faith to advance him towards the throne.

Battles among the ancient once began with a single combat between selected champions, the agreement sometimes being made that this encounter should settle the issue at stake. The Philistines proposed this plan to King Saul, for they had with them Goliath, of Gath, a giant, heavily armed and almost invulnerable. Twice a day for forty days this son of "the Anakim" strutted forth and shouted his boastful defiance to the Israelites, challenging them to single combat—to the great dismay of Saul and his followers.

This was the state of things when David reached the battlefield. He saw the boastful giant come forth for his daily challenge. He saw the cringing dismay of his countrymen. His blood boiled as he listened to the unavenged insults to his country and his God. That such a heathen should successfully defy "the armies of the living God" seemed to the young patriot a great calamity.

Though his earnestness was ridiculed and rebuked by his older brothers, it was soon reported to King Saul, who promptly summoned David before him. His weapons were his staff and his sling, the only weapons he knew he could use. The staff was more properly a club. These, with bows and arrows, were doubtless the weapons of most of Saul's army. Past experience is present power. David's sling had not been idle during the long days with the sheep. He became expert with it then.

Thus meagerly but appropriately equipped, David clambered down the ravine between the hostile camps; then, crossing the brook that still winds along the vale of Elah today, he began to climb the ascent on the other side. The disguised giant cursed the stripling he sees approaching him, and boastfully defies him. "The faith of the invaders was solely in their doughty giant. When he fell they fled without further parley, and, as usual, the rout was accompanied by pursuit and slaughter.

DESIRE TO CONVERT OTHERS.

The Christian Endeavor topic for Aug. 9 is found in Romans i., 1-17, being another lesson from Paul: "How may we get his passion for souls?" Paul's passion for souls is expressly set forth in his letter to the Romans: "I long to see you that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift." "Often times I purposed to come unto you * * * that I might have some fruit among you also as among other gentiles."

Few people have ever been truly converted but that they have had, to some extent at least, a desire for the conversion of others. No sooner had Andrew found Jesus as the Messiah than he sought his brother Peter and led him to Jesus, and this desire for the salvation of others has always been looked upon as one of the evidences of true conversion, but some men have been characterized by this desire far above others. The salvation of the souls of men has been a passion with them. Conspicuous among such stands the apostle Paul. He was all things to all men of thereby he might save some, and so great was his desire for the salvation of his countrymen, who were Israelites, that he declared that he could wish himself accursed for Christ for their sakes. In other words, he was filled with such a burning desire for their salvation that he would have sacrificed his own soul of thereby he could have saved theirs. Few indeed have been possessed with such a passion for souls, and we may well contemplate it in the great apostle, with the hope and prayer that to some extent at least, his mantle may fall upon us and that we may be filled with a deeper desire than ever before for the salvation of the souls of men.

"STIR UP THE GIFT OF GOD."

The Epworth league topic for Aug. 9 is found in the II Timothy i., 6-8, "Stir up the gift of God which is in thee." Paul, the aged preacher, is prisoner in Rome under sentence of death. His anxiety is not about his own fate, but for the welfare of the churches after his death and for the progress of the Christian faith. He naturally turns to the younger men who have been his companions in travel and preaching. Timothy is particularly dear to him, and his mind many times a day brings up the scenes of his early ministry when he found the young man in a godly home circle. He now longs for the companionship and presence of this active and ardent helper.

The tender heartedness which seems to have been so natural to Timothy might lead him to shrink from the hardships and oppositions he had seen heaped upon Paul. Sensitiveness to shame and pain might cause a relaxation of effort and diligence. So he shall be reminded of the danger and exhorted not to be ashamed of the testimony of the Lord nor of Paul, the prisoner, but to suffer hardship, sustained by the power of God. This is a call to the highest and noblest living.

Timothy was filled with the power of the spirit, and Paul urged him to stir up his gift. So should all who profess to be followers of Jesus Christ bestir themselves to increased activity and re-

newed fidelity to the trust given into our care. Never was there greater need than now of clear, Christian thought and deep heart devotion. Laxity in belief and practice widely prevails. Earnestness and living is too rare. Anxiously for pleasure and worldly gain press out of sight in too many cases the claims of God and our calling by Him. His gift and His commission are our richest possessions.

WORTH THE WINNING.

The Baptist Young People's topic for Aug. 9 is found in Romans i., 1-7, how to get Paul's passion for winning souls. Paul appreciated his own salvation. He delighted to call himself "Paul, a bond servant of Jesus Christ." Appreciating the great gift that God had bestowed upon him, he was anxious that it should be received by others. If we only appreciated our own salvation more we would be filled with a greater desire to see the souls of others saved. Paul realized his indebtedness to the unsaved. "I am a debtor both to the Greeks and to the barbarians; both to the wise and to the unwise; so as much as in me is I am ready to preach the gospel." The saved owe a debt to the unsaved. We have the gospel and can give it to them, and therefore we are under the obligation to do so. Christ has commanded us to preach the gospel to every creature.

Paul had faith in the power of the gospel to save. "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believeth." Paul earnestly believed in the power of the gospel to save. Do we? We profess to believe it, but do we practically believe it? A good man, who had established a reformatory school for wayward boys, was showing a visitor over it, who asked him rather sneeringly how many lads he hoped to reform. "If I spend all my life here, and reform only one boy I shall not feel that the time and effort are wasted," was the reply. "That is ridiculous," said the other, sharply. "All this for only one boy?" "But suppose it was your boy?" was the answer.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION. The Luther league topic is found in Zachariah iv., 9-10. It is a discussion of missionary work. Zerubbabel must have been a very busy man when he was building the temple. His hand "laid the foundations," and our lesson says "they shall also finish it." What you know that the temple of the church is building all over our country now? The missionaries, with their wives, are workmen. They do not very often use picks and shovels and hammers, but they do other work equally hard, or harder. They lay the foundation of belief in the minds of the people. The foundations are sometimes laid best among the children in the Sunday school. They in turn become excellent builders in time. Very often foundation stones slip away, and then some one has to bring them back again. You see they don't fit well at first to their new position. Some children come only when presents and rewards are in order. Well, they are little stones for a big foundation and must be chiseled with love until they are fit to stay. This is the duty of small things. Ten years from now will see wonders in the Western cities and villages if all the workers in the East will do what they can to help. The missionaries must have means to love where rooms are high and fare is "low." Even the youngest league members can help in laying foundations. What can we do?

"We can work with our prayer, the pennies we bring, the least little thing. To work for our Lord in His harvest."

NOTABLE DAYS OF THE WEEK. August 9 is the ninth Sunday after Trinity. Also the anniversary of the birth in 1831 of John Dryden, eminent English poet; of Francis Scott Key, in 1780, author of "The Star-Spangled Banner," of Adonias Judson, in 1788, noted Baptist missionary and author; of Laurent S. Juneau, in 1793, founder of Milwaukee, Wis.; of William T. G. Morton, in 1819, discoverer of the use of ether in surgery; of William M. Stewart, in 1829, silver senator from Nevada.

August 10 was the birthday, in 1789, of Louis Jacques Mande Daguerre, French artist distinguished for the invention of the daguerotype; of Jay Cooke, in 1821, financier of the Civil war, and of the Northern Pacific railroad; of Horace White, in 1834, editor and author; of Charles E. Clark, in 1843, captain of the Oregon during the Cuban war.

August 11 is the anniversary of the birth, in 1833, of Robert Green Ingersoll, lawyer, orator and author of books and speeches directed against the Christian religion. His father was a Presbyterian minister. Also, in 1826, of Andrew Jackson Davis, noted author of works on spiritualism.

August 12 is the anniversary of the birth, in 1762, of George IV., great grandfather of Edward VII.; of Robert Southey, in 1774, English poet and author; of Robert Mills, in 1781, architect and designer of the Washington monument; of Ephraim Ball, in 1812, inventor of agricultural implements; of Benjamin P. Cheney, in 1815, founder of the American Express Co.

Aug. 13 is the anniversary of the birth, in 1743, of Antoine Laurent Lavoisier, French philosopher, and one of the fathers of modern chemistry; of Roland Hill, in 1744, eccentric English preacher; of Mrs. Lucy Stone, in 1818, famous advocate of woman suffrage; of Philip Phillips, in 1824, singer and composer of Felix Arter, in 1851, educator and reformer; of the capture in 1898 of Manila by the Americans.

Aug. 14 is the anniversary of the birth, in 1777, of Hans Christian Oersted, a Danish philosopher and founder of the science of electro-magnetism; of John Pipton, in 1789, United States senator active in the development of Indiana; of Frederick Saunders, in 1807, librarian and author; of Park Benjamin, in 1809, journalist, lecturer and poet; of John F. Hurst, in 1834, bishop of the M. E. church; of Ernest Thompson Seton, artist and author of animal stories—same as E. S. Thompson and Ernest Seton Thompson.

Aug. 15 is known in the Catholic church as the festive of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin. It is celebrated in parts of Europe with much ceremony. In France the day took a national character and Louis XIII. chose this day to place his kingdom under the patronage of the Virgin Napoleon I. and II., each established this day as a national one. Napoleon I. is said to have changed the real date of his birth in February to coincide with the festival of the Assumption. It is also the anniversary of the birth of Sir Walter Scott, in 1771, Scottish novelist; of Thomas De Quincey, in 1785, English author; of F. P. Jules Grevy, in 1813, president of France; of Mrs. (Gen.) John A. Logan in 1838, editor and author.

Aug. 16 is the anniversary of the birth of the Virgin Mary, in 1813, English author; of F. P. Jules Grevy, in 1813, president of France; of Mrs. (Gen.) John A. Logan in 1838, editor and author.

GROWING PROSPERITY

Baring upon the present satisfactory condition of the Southern States, some figures given in a letter from Richard H. Edmonds, editor of The Baltimore Manufacturers' Record, will be found very interesting. The letter, written to John L. Williams & Son, of Richmond, says: Baltimore, July 28, 1903.—Gentlemen: Between 1891 and 1899 the average price of cotton was lower than ever before, except during a brief period over sixty years ago. From 1850 to 1890 the average New York price of cotton had always been over 10 cents a pound, with the exception of one year; but in 1891 the price suddenly dropped and continued to decline until the average price in New York in 1897-1898 was only 6.22 cents and in 1898-1899 was 6 cents. From these exceedingly low and unprofitable figures, marking for the farmers of the South just such a period as the worst some years ago endured when wheat and corn were at their lowest point, there was a fair advance until in 1901 and 1902 the average price in New York was 8.37 cents for the former and 8.75 cents for the latter year. Under the development of the bull movement now prevailing cotton is commanding higher prices than for many years, higher than it has averaged for a third of a century; but even without regard to the bull movement we have the assurance of the statistical position of cotton throughout the world, that the Southern farmers will for the coming crop get a higher price than for some years, probably higher than for the last ten or twelve years. The importance of this in adding to the South's prosperity is aptly illustrated by a few figures.

Under the high prices prevailing up to 1900 the South was receiving for its cotton and cotton seed only about \$350,000,000 to \$375,000,000 a year much less than it had received during the ten years prior to 1891, notwithstanding the very great increase in the size of the crop. During the last three years the South's cotton and cotton seed crops have averaged considerably over \$500,000,000 a year, a gain in three years of not less than \$400,000,000 compared with the aggregate of the three preceding years. It is safe to estimate that this year's cotton and cotton seed crop will bring to the farmers of the South at least \$600,000,000, and so great has been the progress in the development of diversified farming, including truck growing and fruit raising for Northern and Western markets, that other agricultural products of the South will aggregate not far from \$900,000,000, or a total of \$1,500,000,000 as the outcome of the farming operations of the South this year. In 1900, according to the census report, the value of the agricultural products of the South was \$1,271,000,000 against \$650,000,000 in 1880. Notwithstanding the fact that the cotton crop represents only about 40 per cent. of the total value of the agricultural products of the South, it is the great money crop of the South, and its history for a hundred years shows that whenever it has sold at high prices there has been general prosperity throughout the Southern States. During the ten years from 1890 to 1900, in which low prices prevailed, the assessed value of the property in the South increased from \$4,659,000,000 to \$5,547,000,000, or a gain of \$788,000,000, which was less than one-half of the gain in the assessed value between 1888 and 1890, a period in which cotton averaged considerably above 10 cents a pound. Between 1900 and 1902, two years in which fairly profitable prices of cotton have combined with industrial activity to increase the South's prosperity, the gain in the assessed value of property has been \$460,000,000, an average of \$230,000,000 a year against an average of \$75,000,000 a year for the preceding ten years. In other words, the assessed value of Southern property in two years was more than one-half as much as in the ten years from 1890 to 1900. With the assurance of much better prices for cotton than even the fairly satisfactory figures of the last two years, the South is preparing to enter upon the most prosperous period in its history, and the ten years of certain, regardless of the ups and downs of the speculative market in Wall street, to show a greater aggregate development in the South than the last twenty years. It needs no argument to prove this, for increase of population and increase of wealth and the development which has already been accomplished in the South are the surest evidence of it. The Manufacturers' Record for the week show a total output in the Southern States for the first half of 1903 of 1,693,000 tons against 1,458,000 tons for the corresponding period of 1902, a gain of 235,000 tons. On this basis, taking into account several new furnaces lately built, it is safe to count, even allowing for contingencies, that the production during the second half of the year will exceed these figures, thus assuring to the South an output for the year of not less than 3,500,000 tons, nearly one-half of which will be the production of Alabama. In this connection it is interesting to note that in 1880 the total production of pig iron in the South was 390,000 tons, that the total production for the entire country in the same year was only 3,800,000 tons, or but little more than the production of the South the present year. In 1880 the output of bituminous coal in the United States was 6,000,000 tons, of which 6,000,000 tons were in the South. Last year the South alone mined 61,000,000 tons, which was ten times its output of 1880 and 50 per cent. more bituminous coal than the United States mined in 1880. What has been done in coal and iron alone illustrates what is being done in the development of cotton mill interests and nearly all other lines of manufacturing.

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We are needing rain badly in this section. GET SAME.

CONFIDENCE IN RICHMOND.

Financiers There Expect Rally in Virginia-Carolina Chemical.

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In the absence of President Samuel T. Morgan, Vice-President Whittle said: "We are as much astonished as anyone else can be. We know there is absolutely no reason for it any that our prospects are brighter than they have ever been before."

The properties and affairs of the company are in good condition and the idea of financial embarrassment is ridiculed. Much credence is placed here in the rumor of an agreement being reached between the company and Armour and Swift as to the cotton-oil business, which was so unprofitable last year.

The holdings of Chemical stock here are large and many men have suffered by the decline, but far less of the stock than usual is now held as collateral or in speculation.

The common stock of the company has sold as high as 76 or 77; the preferred has sold around 134. At noon today the preferred sold at 80 and the common at 22 1/2.

"Dr." Dowie Now a Citizen. Chicago, Aug. 7.—John Alexander Dowie was made a citizen of the United States in the Superior Court today.

Dr. Dowie, by his affidavit filed, renounced all allegiance to the sovereign of Great Britain and Ireland and swore to support the constitution of the United States. "Elijah II." is the first person in Cook county to become naturalized under the provision made at the last sitting of Congress, that no person should become a citizen affiliated with any society opposed to organized government or who believes in such principles or advocates the killing of officers or individuals of the Government. By this law anarchical principles become treason.

Judge Gary read the affidavit of "Dr." Dowie to him and asked whether it was correct. Dowie replied that it was. Dr. Dowie and Zion City were promptly annexed to the United States. —It is to be hoped that every good patriotic citizen of old Mecklenburg will, laying every other feeling aside except that of doing his whole duty by his country, go to the polls next Tuesday and vote in the bond issue, thus keeping it in the forefront of the most progressive communities of the world in the matter of good roads.

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Judge Gary read the affidavit of "Dr." Dowie to him and asked whether it was correct. Dowie replied that it was. Dr. Dowie and Zion City were promptly annexed to the United States. —It is to be hoped that every good patriotic citizen of old Mecklenburg will, laying every other feeling aside except that of doing his whole duty by his country, go to the polls next Tuesday and vote in the bond issue, thus keeping it in the forefront of the most progressive communities of the world in the matter of good roads.

its industrial interests had secured a solid foundation, and before the world at large believed that its coal and iron interests and its cotton mills could weather the storm of a panic and the long depression that would follow. For the next ten years, notwithstanding the coincident loss by reason of the almost unprecedented decline in cotton, the South put its manufacturing interests on a solid basis, demonstrating to the world that they could live and prosper through the worst period of depression and the lowest prices of iron ever known. With this demonstration fully made there came another period in the material advancement of the South. The South itself had accumulated capital, notwithstanding the low price of cotton and the general industrial depression; it had accumulated experience, and it had established its credit throughout the world. With these things accomplished, outside capital once more sought investment in that section, and for the last three years the South has been making very great progress. But these three years have been a constructive period, in which its iron interests have been overhauled, its iron-making methods brought up to a par with the best furnace practices of the country, its coal-mining and coke-making interests developed, its cotton mill interests advanced from an investment of \$61,000,000 with 1,700,000 spindles in 1890 to about 8,000,000 spindles with a capital of \$175,000,000 at present. The South is now reaping the profit of these great interests. Moreover, it is not only attracting capital from all sections, but it is attracting immigration to a larger extent than ever before. The world now accepts it as the coming section of America, or as the late Judge Kelly, of Pennsylvania, familiarly known for many years as "Pig Iron" Kelly, fifteen or more years ago, foreseeing this present condition of affairs in the South, called it "the coming El Dorado of American adventure." Its material advancement, based on the upbuilding of its manufacturing and mining interests and the rapidly increasing development of its agricultural interests, promises to tax to the utmost the freight-handling facilities of all Southern railroads.

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Confessed Burning Mill?